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September 28, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bill:

Your speech was excellent and it was deeply appreciated. As you know, a good deal of the literature on "Intrepid" is romanticized to the point of inaccuracy, a source of no little embarrassment to me.

A year ago when the President promulgated the Middle East Peace Plan, it was at such variance from my own conclusions that I set forth what I believe to be the basic factors.

In my opinion, the sore has festered for fifteen hundred years and will continue to do so. As I have pointed out, Lebanon itself was like Belgium, created as a neutral ground and buffer state between the great forces converging there. The Kremlin has no notion of allowing any peace there. Moreover, the entrance of American troops gives the Kremlin a continuing and open option on the intensity of the violence it wishes to visit upon us. Whether or not we like it--and no one likes it very much--we shall have to allow Israel to assume responsibility for the area, or else continue to accept increasing casualties. The Israelis posed a deterrent which was well understood by the Syrians: if the Syrians continue the offensive, Damascus is coming in for one hell of a bombing.

I hope this is of some use to you.

Again, your speech was much appreciated.

Sincerely,

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